

The Pipeline

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CHS Employees Achieve Certifications

The Cabinet for Health Services is committed to encouraging employees to take advantage of the rewards which education provides. Several members of the Office of Program Support, Purchasing and Operational Management Branch have demonstrated their willingness to make the most of educational opportunities available to them, and have gone the extra step to achieve certification in their respective areas of expertise. These certifications were not mandatory, but were obtained in order to enhance services they perform for their customers.

Gene Long, CHS Construction Project Manager, is a Certified Hospital Engineer through the Kentucky Society of Healthcare Engineers.

Bart Bolin, CHS Safety Officer and Capital Construction Budget Officer, currently holds two certifications, one from the OSHA Voluntary Compliance Program through the Kentucky Chamber of Commerce, and another as an Emergency Medical Technician.

Larry Lyles is Branch Manager for the Purchasing and Operational Management Branch, currently on assignment to the central Management and Administrative Reporting System (MARS) development team. Larry was named Kentucky Public Procurement Association (KPPA) "Purchasing Manager of the Year" in 1995. In addition, he was one of Kentucky's first Certified Professional Public Buyers, and until recently was state government's only Certified Public Purchasing Officer.

Ann Hall is serving as Acting Branch Manager of the Purchasing and Operational Management Branch during Larry Lyles' absence. Ann has attained the rank of Certified Professional Public Buyer, and was chosen as the 1996 "Buyer of the Year" for KPPA.

The Cabinet for Health Services encourages professional development and certification, and salutes the achievement of those who take the time and effort to accomplish this task! All Cabinet employees are encouraged to prepare themselves to be more productive, to better meet the challenge of serving the Commonwealth.

Watkins Named Buyer of the Year

Jackie Watkins, CFC purchasing agent, was named 1998 Buyer of the Year by the Kentucky Public Procurement Association (KPPA) at their annual conference Nov. 4-6. The prestigious award honors the buyer who best exemplifies professionalism in purchasing, employment, career development, and KPPA.



Her manager, Susan Thurman, and co-worker Larry McKinney nominated Watkins, a Certified Professional Public Buyer since June 1993. In addition to a personal plaque and a large plaque passed down from the previous winning agency, Watkins received \$200 and a complimentary registration fee – valued at \$450 – to the 1999 National Institute of Governmental Purchasing Annual Forum and Products Exposition in Nova Scotia.

If you make purchases for your office and would like more information about KPPA, visit their web site at www.state.ky.us/agencies/KPPA/.

Sick Leave Needed

Janet Skelton, an employee for the Cabinet for Health Services, is in need of sick leave to care for her daughter. To donate time, call Rita Stratton at 573-2738 or Melony Collins at 564-7770.



Donated sick leave is being requested for Linda Horton, an employee of the Department for Medicaid Services. Linda is facing the possibility of amputation of one or both legs. If you would like to donate, please contact Peggy Puckett at 564-5472.

Central Office

Notes and Activities

- ✓ **The aerobics program meets every Tuesday and Thursday at 5 p.m.** in the CHR cafeteria. If you have questions, call Beth Bates at 564-7736.
- ✓ **Be sure to inform your timekeeper of new or changed addresses as soon as possible so you can get your W2s promptly.** Call Fay Klessig at 564-7770 with questions about the change of address procedure.
- ✓ **Santa is coming soon!!** He'll be making his rounds through the Cabinet for Families and Children and the Cabinet for Health Services on Friday, Dec. 18, to visit children of employees. Santa's schedule has been posted on the Pipeline pole throughout the CHR and Health Services buildings.
- ✓ **"Let's try again..." The Central Office Vision 2000 team will meet** on Monday, Dec. 7, and Monday, Dec. 14, from 2-4 p.m. in the CHR cafeteria. All CFC staff are welcome to attend. Bring a "wish list" of things that you feel you need to make your job more efficient.

Frankfort Area Holiday Activities

- ◆ Frankfort Habilitation will be in the CHR Building lobby Dec. 11 and 18 to sell poinsettias. Sizes and prices vary.
- ◆ Lt. Gov. Henry wishes you a Happy Holiday and cordially invites all state employees to a Christmas Reception, Wednesday, Dec. 9, from 1-4 p.m. in the Old Governor's Mansion at 420 High Street.
- ◆ Gov. and Mrs. Paul Patton extend their holiday greetings and cordially invite all state employees to a Christmas Reception, Wednesday, Dec. 16, from 1-4 p.m. at the Governor's Mansion.
- ◆ Employee Services will be distributing Kentucky State Park Gift Certificate information this week. Gift certificates will be on sale through Dec. 18, Monday through Friday, from 11 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., at: Kroger - Brighton Park (East), Wal-Mart Super Center - US 127 South, and the Capital Plaza Tower - Lobby. Call 1-800-255-7275 between 8:30 a.m. and 4 p.m. for more information.

Be Wise When Choosing Toys This Holiday Season

By Kim Brannock

When you're checking your gift list for toys for special boys and girls this Christmas, remember to check it twice - for safety.

Most people consider price and what their child wants when selecting toys for Christmas, but safety is the most important factor when shopping for those special gifts, says Mike Cavanah with the Department for Public Health. While Kentucky product safety inspectors will be doing toy inspections again this year, parents and other adults who buy toys should be on the lookout for unsafe items, too.

"Two rules to remember are choose toys that are suitable for the child's age and ones that do not have safety hazards such as sharp edges and points or small pieces that can cause choking," Cavanah said.

Toy inspectors check retail stores for toys that pose a choking hazard, sharp points, or sharp edges hazards, either by design or due to poor construction. They also make sure that none of the toys and products on the federal Consumer Product Safety Commission's recall list are in stores. Kentucky stores will be checked between now and Dec. 23.

"Consumer injury and product hazard reporting can lead to the recall and removal of unsafe products from sales, so it's important to let us know if a toy item has caused an injury or is believed to be a potential hazard," he said.

In 1997, the U.S. Consumer Product Safety Commission received reports of 13 toy-related deaths and more than 141,000 children who were treated in hospital emergency rooms for toy-related injuries.

Parents or other consumers who spot toys or other products that appear unsafe or want a copy of the recall listing can contact Cavanah at the Department for Public Health, 275 E. Main St., Frankfort, KY 40621 or call him at 564-4856.

Pipeline, a weekly newsletter for employees of the Cabinets for Families and Children and Health Services, welcomes reader comments and contributions. Items for *Pipeline* are due by 4:30 p.m. Tuesday; items for intercom announcements are due by 4:30 p.m. Monday. Call (502) 564-6786 or send information to Patricia Loman at ploman@mail.state.ky.us.